CLAIM LISTING:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Where claims have been amended and/or canceled, such amendments and/or cancellations are done without prejudice and/or waiver and/or disclaimer to the claimed and/or disclosed subject matter, and the assignee reserves the right to claim this subject matter and/or other disclosed subject matter in a continuing application.

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

between a source and a destination, pre-arranging one or more internet connected nodes to transmit a signal from a first node to a second node without a buffering delay and/or a route computation delay for at least one or more predetermined time periods, in order to establish a virtual time multiplexed circuit between said source and said destination, at least in part, to enable bi-directional data communication between said source and said destination;

wherein a particular one of the one or more predetermined time periods is determined based at least in part on a transmission link bandwidth of a particular node.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a virtual dedicated communication path comprising one or more internet connected nodes, wherein the one or more nodes may be pre-arranged, for one or more periods of time, to transmit a signal from a first node to a second node without a buffering delay and/or a route calculation delay, wherein a particular one of said one or more respective periods of time is determined based at least in part on a transmission link bandwidth of a particular one of the one or more nodes.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein said virtual dedicated communication path comprises a first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit and a second unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein at least one of the unidirectional virtual dedicated circuits is active for a period of time.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a connection manager capable of connecting a source and a destination at least in part by designating one or more internet connected nodes for transmitting a signal from a first node to a second node without a buffering delay and/or a route calculation delay, at least in part by designating the one or more nodes for transmitting said signal for one or more periods of time, wherein a particular one or the one or more periods of time is determined based at least in part on a transmission link bandwidth of a particular one of the one or more nodes.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the designated one or more internet connected nodes comprise a first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit and a second unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein at least one of the unidirectional virtual dedicated circuits is active for a period of time.